

OCT 18 2006

Appl. No. 09/920,756
Amdt. dated October 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2006

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the Official Action dated July 19, 2006. The Official Action rejected claims 1-11 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Paul U.S. Patent No. 6,687,817 ("Paul") in view of Williams U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988 ("Williams"). These grounds of rejection are addressed below following a brief discussion of the present invention to provide context. This ground of rejection is addressed below following a brief discussion of the present invention to provide context. Claims 1, 4-6, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 12-16 have been previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-11 and 17-23 are presently pending.

The Present Invention

According to one aspect, the present invention comprises systems and techniques for storing, retrieving, and managing computer system-specific configuration settings for a computer system, such as a point of sale terminal. The computer system-specific configuration settings include at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings. When the terminal is booted, it is able to perform an automated search for and of available locations from which computer system-specific configuration settings may be retrieved, such as an attached storage device, or a network connection to a remote storage device or computer system, or both, and to retrieve configuration settings from desired locations and in desired sequences. Retrieving system-specific configuration settings in this manner advantageously allows a standard hardware platform, such as a point of sale terminal, to operate in different operating software configurations including operating system and application software ranging from Windows® CE,

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Windows® 98, Windows® NT, or the like, for example. As an example, a point of sale terminal such as NCR's 7401 or 7454 may run Windows CE, an operating system primarily for a hand-held device. To do so, the point of sale terminal may have to retrieve configuration settings for operating Windows CE because, unlike many hand-held devices, the point of sale terminal typically is restarted in order to utilize a different operating system. On the other hand, once an operating system is installed and configured on a handheld platform, the handheld platform is not typically reconfigured and is typically not rebooted. During the re-boot process of the terminal, the configuration settings required by Windows CE are thus loaded in order for the terminal to operate the Windows CE operating system.

The Art Rejections

All of the present rejections are based on Paul in view of Williams. As addressed in greater detail below, Paul and Williams do not support the Official Action's reading of them and the rejections based thereupon should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the analysis of Paul and Williams made by the Official Action and respectfully traverses the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejections.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-11 and 17-23 as unpatentable over Paul in view of Williams. In light of the present amendments to claims 1, 4-6, 17, 18, 20, and 22, this ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, reads as follows:

1. A computer implemented method of configuring a point of sale (POS) terminal to execute a handheld platform operating software comprising the steps of:
reading generic configuration settings from a storage device;
storing generic configuration settings in a memory;

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conducting an automated search for and retrieval of computer system-specific configuration settings by the terminal, the automated search and retrieval comprising:

- determining if first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on an attached storage device, said first computer system-specific configuration settings including at least one of brightness, volume, and energy saving settings for the POS terminal;
- if said first computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on said storage device, copying said first computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory;
- determining if second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on a network device accessed through a network; and
- if said second computer system-specific configuration settings are stored on the network device, copying said second computer system-specific configuration settings to said memory;
- setting a boot status setting; and
- rebooting said POS terminal to execute the handheld platform operating software according to computer system-specific configuration settings stored in said memory.

These limitations in the claimed combination are not taught and are not made obvious by Paul, Williams, or a combination thereof. Paul teaches a system for providing configuration information to a device newly joining a network. Upon its addition to a network, a new device sends a configuration request, which is routed to a device, such as a computer, assigned to responding to configuration requests. The device receiving the configuration request sends a configuration pending message to the device sending the request. The device sending the request then enters a listening state and the device receiving the request sends configuration data through a multicast. The device sending the request does not make any determination as to where and whether configuration information is available, but simply issues a request upon joining the network.

The present invention, by contrast, as claimed by claim 1, provides for the performance of an automated search and retrieval by a terminal requiring configuration settings. Such an

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automated search provides for greater flexibility in retrieval of configuration settings, allowing for retrieval of configuration settings from locations other than devices accessible through a network connection, or from a combination of devices, as well as allowing for retrieval from a remotely accessible device, such as a device accessible through a network connection. Claim 1, as amended, therefore defines over the cited art and should be allowed.

Williams does not cure Paul's deficiencies as a reference with respect to claim 1.

Williams teaches a system allowing configuration of a home entertainment system according to user preferences, but does not teach and does not make obvious the automated search and retrieval of configuration information by a computer system. Claim 1, as amended, therefore defines over the cited art and should be allowed. The remaining independent claims 4-6, 17, 18, 20, and 22, similarly relate to determination by a terminal as to the availability and location of computer system-specific configuration settings and retrieval and use of those settings. These claims also therefore define over the cited art and should be allowed.

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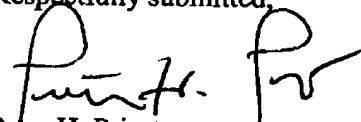
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Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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